

Parent Advisory Committee to the Superintendent (PACS): Key Communications Nov. 1, 2018

Each school has two representatives on this committee. Laura Lawyer and Jami Pitman are co-chairs:

- We are here to learn, have discussions and give input to the superintendent. **Please bring information back to each of our schools, share it, and take back questions or concerns from other parents.**
- Please arrange for a parent substitute to attend PAC if you are unable to attend.

Welcome and Introductions

Committee members introduced themselves and gave an example of the last time they helped someone or someone helped them

Superintendent's Update

- Dr. Baker introduced Executive Chef Patrick Durgan, and he shared an update about the new **Central Kitchen**, which is nearing completion. You can see photos [here](#). The new kitchen will allow us to revise our menu offerings and provide more healthy scratch-cooked meals for students.
- Work on the new **Sehome High School** is ahead of schedule, and we will move staff and students into the new school at semester break at the end of January. The new turf baseball field is complete, and the rest of the Sehome site (including parking lots and other turf fields) will be complete fall of 2019.
- **Budget:** We are starting to hear from our leaders in Olympia about the next biennium budget (2019-21), which impacts how much money our district receives from the state. The state superintendent just released [his budget plan](#). The state superintendent has recommended that local school levies have enough flexibility to provide for the educational opportunities communities expect, or to increase preK-12 funding in other ways. If the legislature does not act proactively in its next session, then many districts, including Bellingham, will be preparing for budget reductions. We are hopeful that the state will come through with solutions.

Family Resources

Isabel Meaker, special assistant to the superintendent in family engagement, introduced the team of staff and partners who work to support students and families in our district, including our homeless coordinators and student equity and inclusion coordinator. Some families we serve are part of our English Language Learner (ELL) community and others face challenges such as poverty and homelessness. [Family Resource Centers](#) (FRC), located at Shuksan Middle and Carl Cozier Elementary schools, connect families with services and resources, including housing, food, furniture, personal care items, employment and childcare.

You can make a donation via the [Bellingham Public Schools Foundation](#) Family Support Fund or donate items (e.g. blankets, personal care items) to the FRC directly. You can donate consignment credit at Labels, Wee Ones or Little Bugs. Furniture donation inquires go to Kathe.Koruga@bellingshamschools.org. You can also contact FriendsoftheFRC@gmail.com or see [this flyer](#) for more information.

Mental Health

Director of teaching and learning Steve Morse and counselors Beth Schille-O'Connor and Chris Cochran presented information about mental health services, including risk factors of suicide, warning signs and what we are doing in our schools. Our counselors work closely with staff and students to prevent, educate and respond to concerns and threats related to suicide and self-harm. They encourage families to listen to your children, ask questions and monitor social media.

Announcements

- The Bellingham Public Schools Foundation is kicking off a [new ambassador program](#).
- Election Day is Nov. 6.
- Jami Pitman is hosting a shoe drive for students. Email jamipitman77@yahoo.com for more information.

Next Meeting: Nov. 29, 2018, District Office, Board Room